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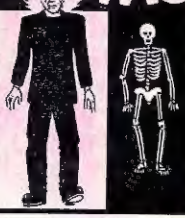

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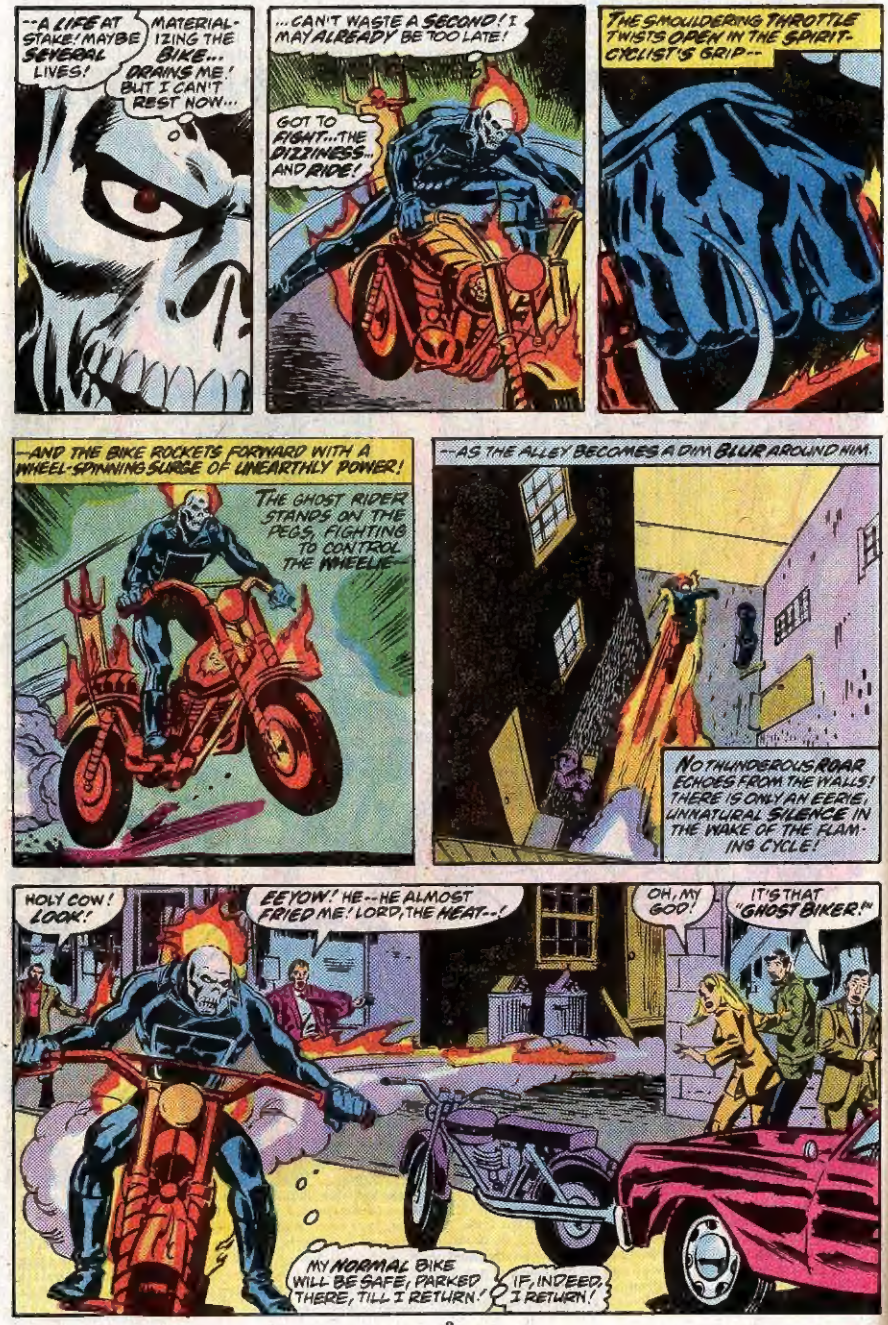

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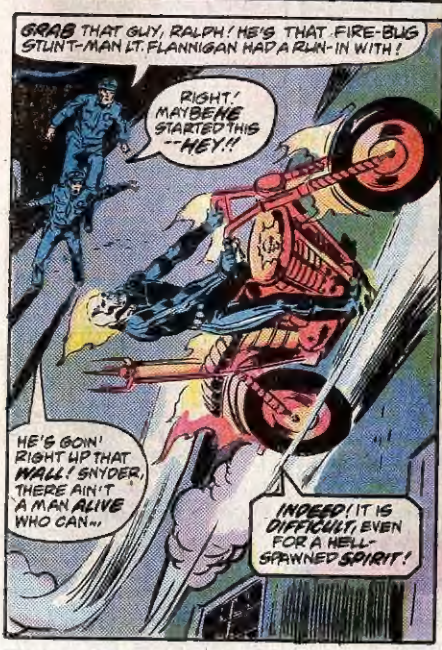

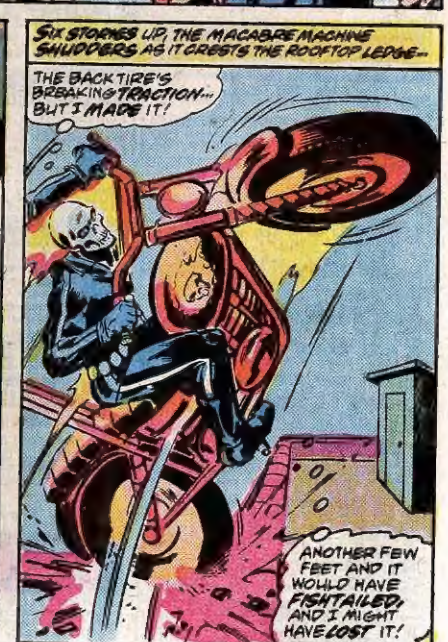

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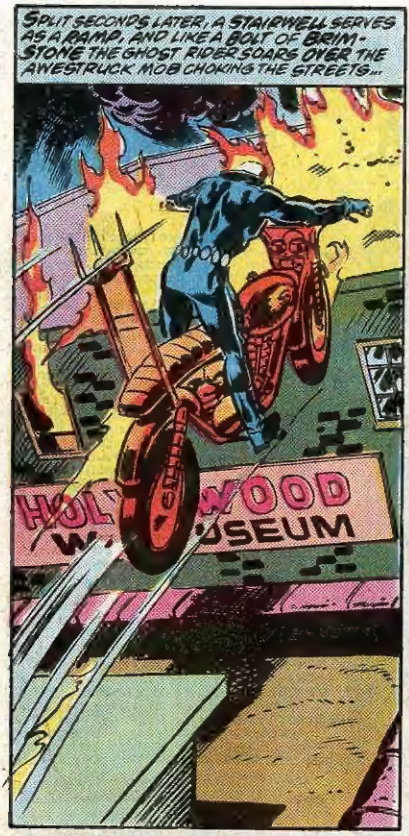

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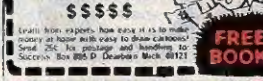

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BUT THEN...
LOOK OUT!
HE REALLY IS A GHOST! HE MUST BE!
AWAY, HUMANS! OUT OF MY PATH!
IT—IT CAN'T BE THAT STUNT-MAN WHO DOES THE SPOOKY CYCLE ACT! NOBODY HUMAN COULD SURVIVE THAT!
HE SAVED THAT GIRL... BUT I KNOW HE'S REALLY EVIL! I CAN FEEL IT!
SHUT UP AND RUN!

THEY'RE SCATTERING IN TOTAL PANIC!
I'LL WEAVE THROUGH THEM AND BE GONE BEFORE THE POLICE REGAIN THEIR WITS!
RUN! RUN! HE'S STRAIGHT FROM HELL! I KNOW IT!

MADE IT! NOTHING BUT OPEN ROAD AHEAD! WAIT-- THAT ROAR--!
HMM! NOT A BAD SET OF WHEELS! THAT'S A HIGHLY MODIFIED A.C. COBRA, I THINK--AND THE DRIVER'S IN A HURRY!

HE'S PROBABLY GOT SIX HUNDRED HORSES UNDER THAT HOOD, AND HE'S USING THEM!
HE'S CRAZY... BUT CATCHING SPEEDERS IS THE L.A.P.D.'S JOB NOT MINE!
MAYBE THEY'LL CHASE HIM AND FORGET ME FOR NOW!

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SOON, IN THE SAME DIM ALLEY AS BEFORE..

MUST... REASSUME FLAME CYCLE... BECOME JOHNNY BLAZE... AGAIN!

THEN, AFTER THE EERIE TRANSFORMATION IS COMPLETE...

OH-H! WOW! THIS CHANGING FORMS BIZ REALLY WASTES ME! SO TIRED...!

...AND, I'M DUE AT THE STUDIO TO SHOOT A NIGHT SCENE! FIGURES!

SEEMS LIKE NOTHING'S GOING RIGHT LATELY!

IN FACT, JUST TURNING INTO THE GHOST RIDER IS BEGINNING TO WORRY...

WHAT'S THIS? A TICKET! "PARKING IN RESTRICTED ZONE"!

GREAT! GHOST RIDER GAVE THE COPS THE SLIP, BUT THEY NAILED JOHNNY BLAZE ON A TECHNICALITY!

TICKET

LATER, AT DELAZNY STUDIOS...

STUNTMASTER

THINGS ARE AWFUL QUIET! I WONDER IF SOMETHING'S WRONG!

ARMSTRONG, MY FAVORITE RENT-A-COP WASN'T EVEN AT THE GATE TO HASSLE ME!

THE PLACE IS DESERTED... BUT WHY? WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO?

GOD, IF ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED TO KAREN OR ROXY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO!

KAREN OR ROXY... HMM. I WONDER WHICH ONE I'D HELP FIRST IF BOTH WERE IN DANGER!

JOHNNY! JOHNNY! OVER HERE! HURRY!

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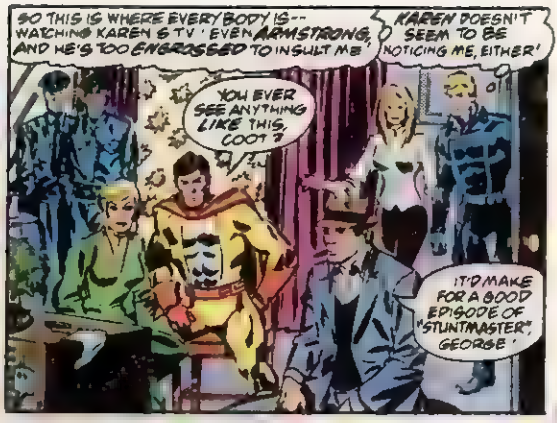

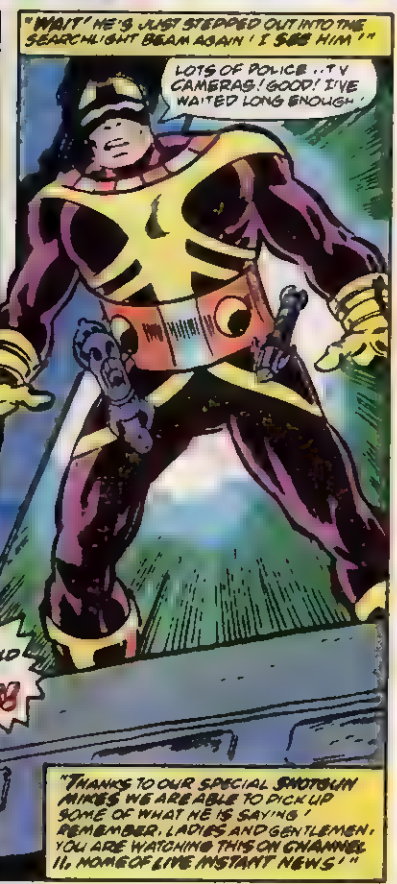

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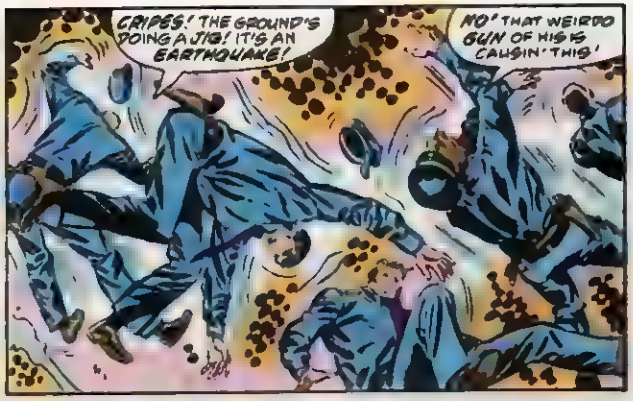

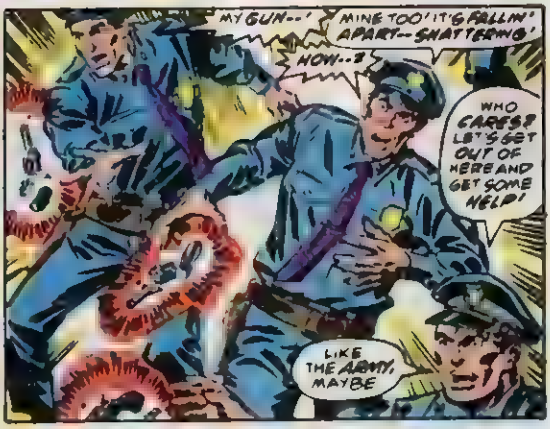

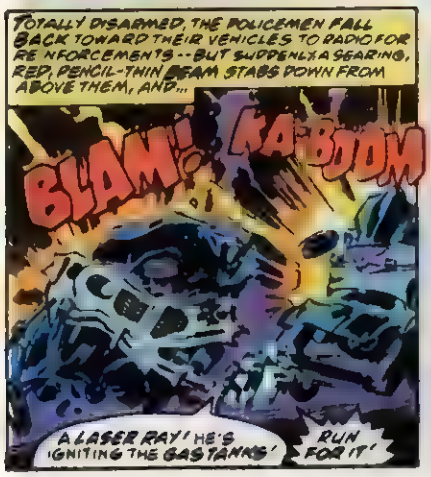

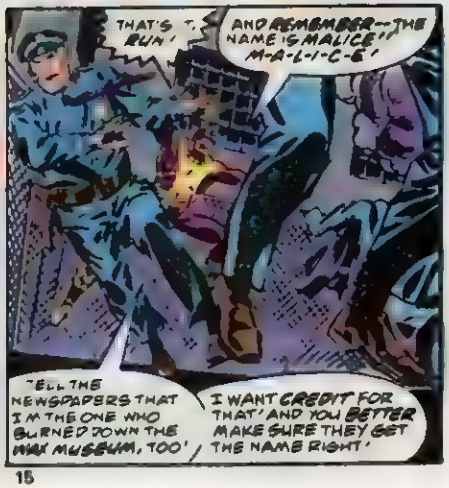

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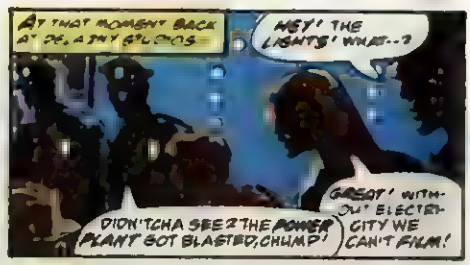

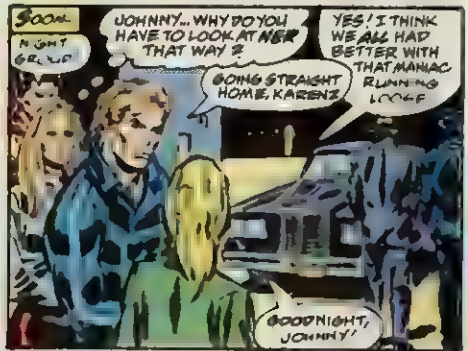

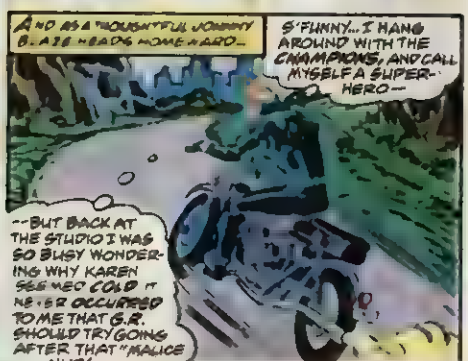

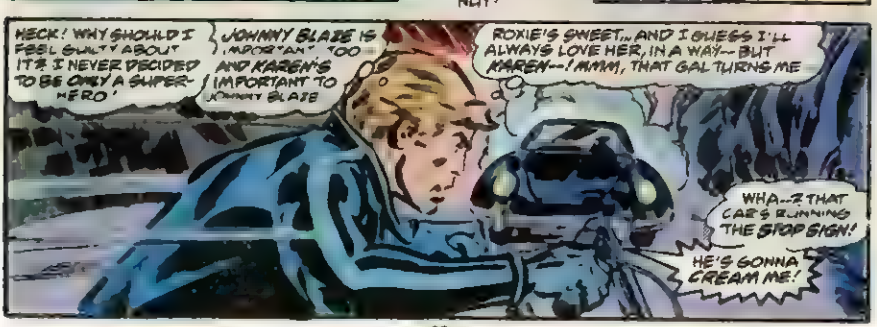

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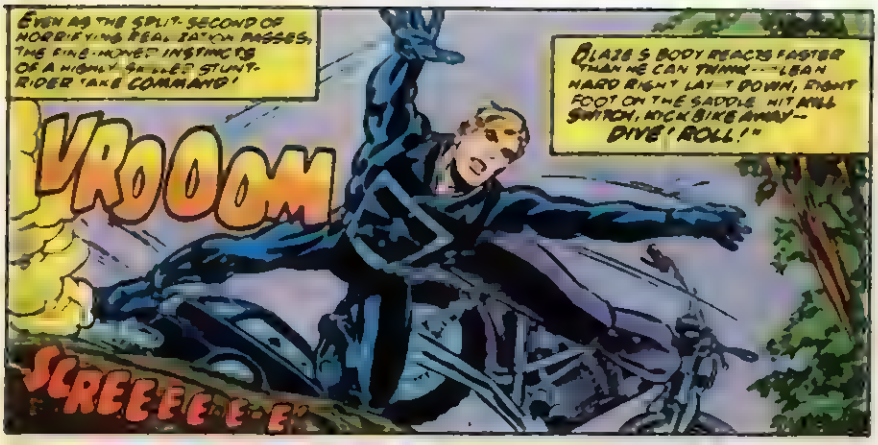

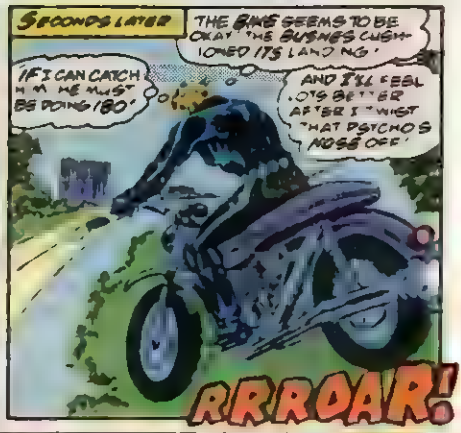

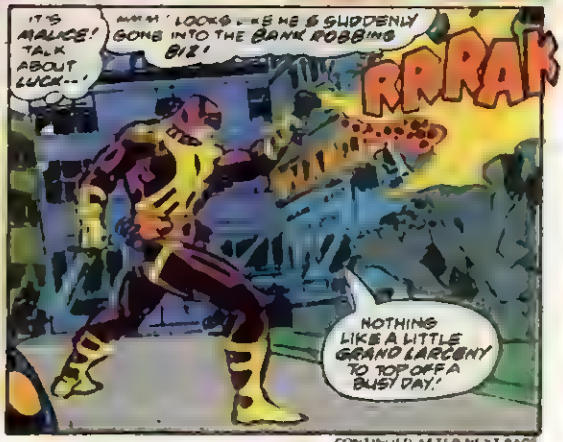

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GHOST WRITERS!

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Dear Marvel,

GHOST RIDER has become an even greater mag than it was in the past, and it was pretty good then. Every page of GR #23 was enjoyable, and the writing was really marvelous. It was good to finally see just what the other members of the Champions really think about the Ghost Rider

Wilson R vera
83 Maujer St
Brooklyn, NY 11206

Dear Jim,

GHOST RIDER #23 was the best issue yet! I was quite pleased with the appearance of the Water Wizard. It was about time that Ghost Rider took on a new, refreshing villain

This book has really gotten better lately. Beginning with ssue #20, the book's plots—*and* subplots—have begun a major progression. Here's my vote to keep Jim on as regular writer!

A few other things bother me, though. Why was the Stunt Master's costume changed? Another thing was that on page three, panel 1, it describes the bike's throttle as being "under a gloved, skeletal palm". How can that be possible? If GR's hand was skeletal, then the rest of his body would have to be skeleton-like, too. Yet, we can see the muscle underneath his skin-tight costume

Well, anyway, Jim, I loved the way you described the power of Ghost Rider's hellfire on page 31

Tim Jarboe
837 18th St., Tell City, IN 47586
(there really is such a place)

Shucks, Tim, there's no need to reassure us of the existence of Tell City. What with at least four former Hoosiers working for the House of Ideas, the Bullpen has been regaled any number of times with stories of feats bold and daring that took place in locales like Bloomington, Terre Haute, Bean Blossom, and even (chuckle) Muncie!

But we digress.

Sorry if the change in Stunt-Master's colors took you by surprise. You see, the producer of his TV series thought his costume would look better in living color if it were a more eye-appealing yellow and scarlet. We meant to clue you in on that, but we ran out of room in the confines of the story.

As for the Ghost Rider's physique—sorry, but he is *very* skeletal under those leathers. It is the mystic qualities of his hellspawn form which fills out his riding duds to make them appear to hold a musculature. All clear?

Jim Shooter & Company

Now *this* is the Ghost Rider as he was meant to be!

He's become so involved with his "spook act" (as the merry mutants of the team call it), that even his fellow Champions are almost convinced of his power. His appearance is horrifying, his voice is chillingly evil, and his demon dialogue is enough to thoroughly frighten anybody The Champs, though still un-convinced that his "powers" are anything more than special effects, are nonetheless increasingly uneasy when he's around And with good reason. The guy really puts on a show. He's even starting to *think* like the Ghost Rider *talks*. Keep this up! He really *is* a hellspawn horror, more demonic than human, it's only fitting that he realizes it, too.

That's the good part. Unfortunately, there's a bad part, too.

While the mystery surrounding Mr. Delazny and the Enforcer is only now unfolding to a climax, and has indeed aroused my curiosity, I have to admit that I was disappointed with the villain introduced this issue. This Water Wizard is a joke. Please get rid of him. The Ghost Rider has fought the Orb, Death-Stalker, the Miracle Man, Greek gods, Shadow-people... he's even battled the Hulk. Water Wizard is just no match for the Ghost Rider. I'd bet that even Willie Lumpkin could take him.

Well, aside from that, this issue wasn't bad, really. Good, in fact. And don't be discouraged. It's hard to please everybody

M E Robbins
230 Venado Ave.
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Sorry you didn't care for WW, M.E. But then, he was never meant to be much more than a super-powered stooge for the Enforcer. Heck, even the Mole did most of his thinking for him

Be that as it may, Jim thanks you for your comments, and is happy you picked up on the ever evolving demonization of Ghost Rider.

Dear Jim, Don, and Don

Despite its title, GHOST RIDER #23 was a fairly good issue. Heck's pencils came out looking much better than usual under Newton's inking, and that was really a treat. The Water Wizard, is quite a capable villain, considering that he was working under the handicap of a ridiculous name The opening scene with the other Champions should prove that Johnny doesn't really belong with that crowd, and the sooner he quits, the better. Anyway, the Enforcer plot seems to be working rather nicely. Hopefully, once Jim establishes himself with this title, we'll see some really heavy stuff.

It's my feeling that Johnny Blaze has tied himself down too much with this set locale and constant supporting cast and all He's a cowboy, remember? He's a biker. He should be free and wild, roaming the highways of the desert and mountains alike—a not-so-easy rider, so to speak. It's time that he broke out of the stifling environment that he's been thrust into and headed for the highways. Once he's broken out, he can prove himself to be the wild, independent, almost outlaw character that he started out to be

Larry Twiss
227 Fox Run
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Tell us, Lar, are you psychic? The reason we ask, is that you've hit incredibly close to what Jim has planned for upcoming issues. As to just how close...well, be here in sixty days, and you'll see!

And in the meantime, drive carefully!

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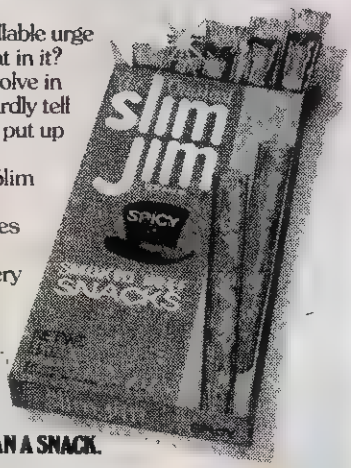
You might want to carry a few extra ones, too. Then, if you meet a werewolf, you can give him something to sink his teeth into instead of you.



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I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING -- EXCEPT MY OWN ENTERTAINMENT!

RRRJ

AND THIS SURE BEATS TOOLING AROUND IN THE YACHT!

THERE! THE DEVICE WILL FLOAT THE VAULT TO THE WOODS ON MY ESTATE!

HA! THIS WAS ALMOST AS MUCH A KICK AS OFFING THAT BIKER!

I THINK IF I SEE ANY MORE BIKERS TONIGHT, I'LL WASTE THEM, TOO! AFTER ALL, IT WAS A BIKER WHO SPOILED MY FUN AT THE FIRE!

INSTANTS LATER...

OH, NO! I--I WAS SO WRAPPED UP IN WATCHING HIM, I FORGOT TO CHANGE TO GHOST RIDER!

VRRROAR

HE'S GETTING AWAY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME TONIGHT?

HE'S REALLY BURNIN' THIS TIME! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO KEEP HIM IN SIGHT ON THIS STONE... BUT BY THE TIME I SWITCH AND MAKE A FLAME-CYCLE, HE'LL BE GONE!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO -- CHANGE ON THE FLY--!

-- AND THAT'S A LOT LIKE SUICIDE!

THE TWO-STROKE ENGINE OF BLAZE'S RD 350 SHRIEKS AS IT IS PUSHED TO ITS LIMIT IN SIXTH GEAR -- WHILE THE MAN ABOARD TESTS HIS OWN LIMITS, FIGHTING PAIN, DIZZINESS AND THE BLUDGEONING WIND AS HE WILLS AWAY HIS MORTALITY...

I DID IT! AND I'M STILL ON THE ROAD! ONLY... THAT WAS THE EASY PART!

GOT TO CONCENTRATE -- FORM A HELLFIRE 'CYCLE!

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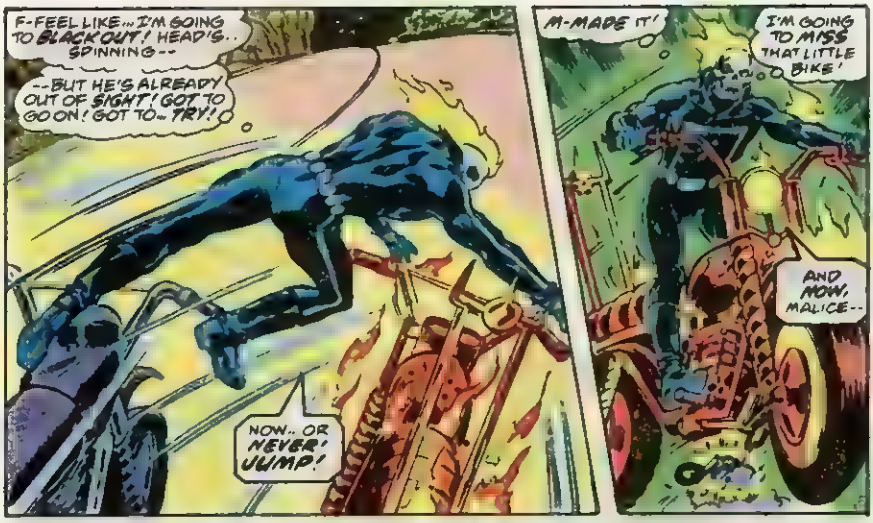

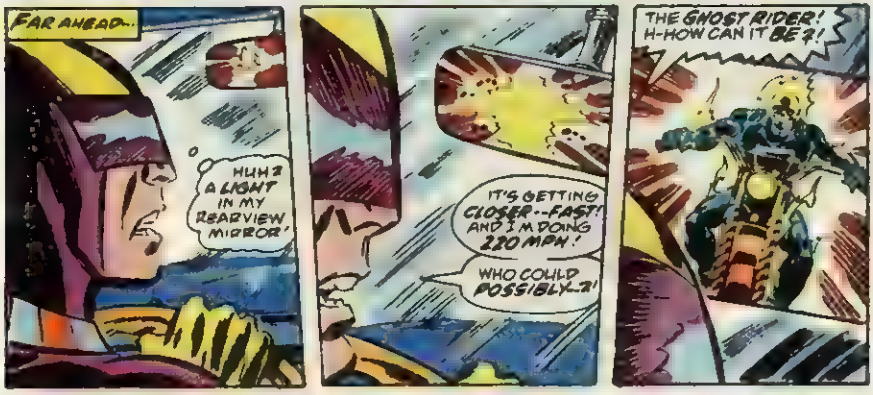

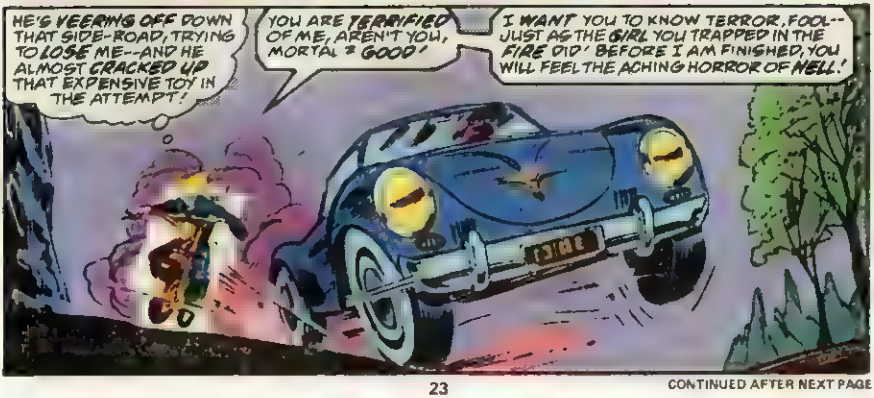

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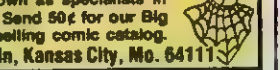

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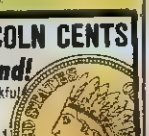

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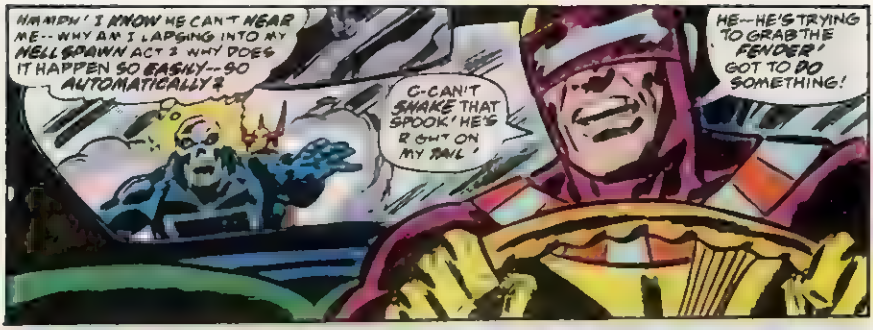

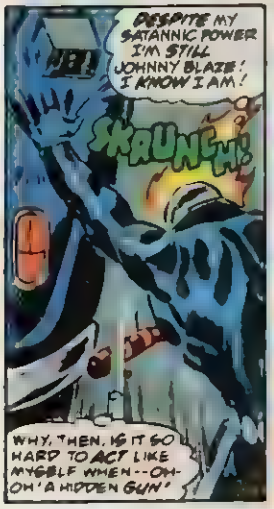

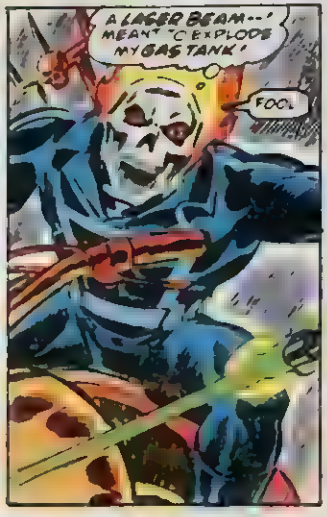

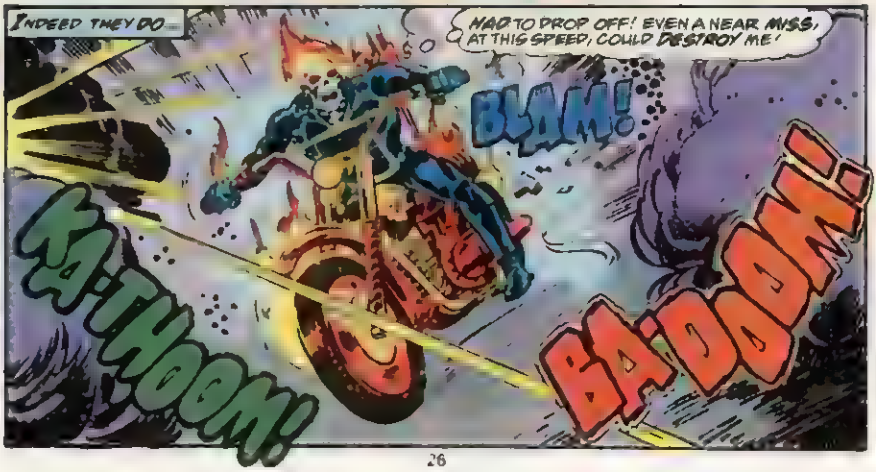

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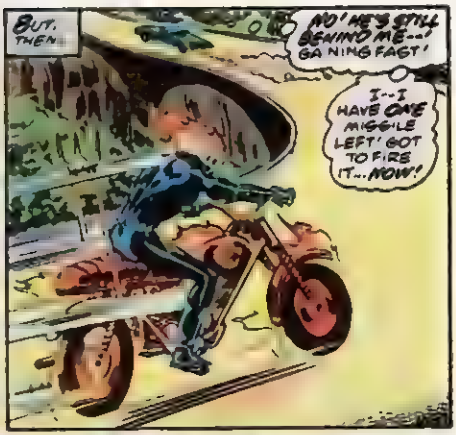

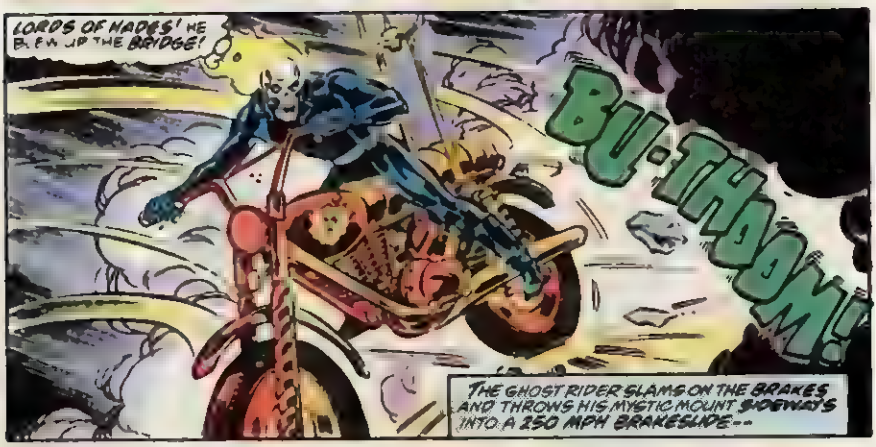

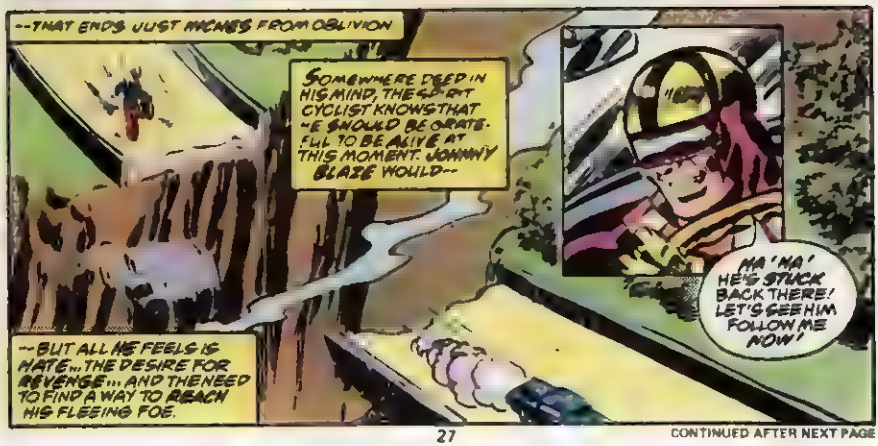

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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Believers! Hey, I finally found a way to get myself off the hook with you! I'm always getting letters from frantic ones complaining that they missed a Marvel radio or TV interview because they didn't know it would be on the air until too late, and demanding that we let 'em know in advance. And, as I keep trying to explain, we usually *can't* let you know in advance because those air dates are made after our mags are already at the printers. But— here's one case where we're able to tip you off in plenty of time (so you can be sure to miss it!) I'm writing these imperishable words at the end of February '77, and they'll be primed in our mags that go on sale in May. Now, I just made a commitment to do a half-hour radio interview on what is probably the largest-audience radio program in the country, FOCUS ON YOUTH. It's supposed to be aired late in May or early June. Some of their previous guests have been Walter Mondale, Dick Cavett, Ayn Rand, and Ted Kennedy. I guess they invited me hoping that I'd put in a good word for them with Howard the Duck! Anyway, the FOCUS ON YOUTH producers gave me a list of stations for you which are scheduled to carry the interview; and now, before I forget, here 'tis:

New York: WNBC-AM
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Providence: WJAR-AM
Tampa: WFLA-AM & FM
Des Moines: WHO-AM, KLYF-FM
Charlotte: WSOC-AM & FM
Fresno: KARM-AM
Jacksonville: WJAX-AM & FM
Schenectady: WGY-AM, WGFM-FM
Orlando: WLOF-AM, WLOQ-FM
Spokane: KHQ-AM & FM
Wilmington: WSTW-FM
Trenton: WPST-FM
Kansas City: KCMO-AM, KCEZ-FM
Cincinnati: WLW-AM
Dallas: WBAP-AM, KSCS-FM
San Francisco: KGO-AM
San Antonio: KONO-AM, KITY-FM
Manchester: WGIR-AM & FM
Fall River: WSAR-AM
Ft. Wayne: WOWO-AM
Harrisburg: WCMB, WSFM
Rochester: WHAM
Norfolk: WKLX
Allentown: WAEB

I suggest you call whichever station is in your area to find out the exact date and time. Boy, won't it be awful if a lot of people are listening in and I come across sounding like Irving Forbush? (Especially when everyone knows I really sound like J. Jonah Jameson!) And now, before I let you get back to the real world, remember a couple of months ago when I asked if anyone knew how to pronounce "Ceud mile failte"? Here's the first answer we got, from our newest giant-size no-prize winner, Juliane Seeley of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and here's J.S.'s letter: "According to Irish Gaelic your phrase is pronounced 'cade me lay faulta' Though Scotch Gaelic belongs to a slightly different family of the language, the pronunciation would be much the same." And in case you've all forgotten, our frenetic little phrase means "A hundred thousand welcomes"— which, until next ish, is what I wish to you!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Spring is still several weeks in the future as your amiable armadillos set this in type, but signs of Summer loom large in our vision. One of the *surest* signs—at least in the mixed-up Marvel manner of viewing things—is the appearance of our colossal King-size Annuals, and this month heralds the arrival of the first two of these! Kicking things off will be the IRON MAN ANNUAL, in which the armored Avenger joins forces with the Champions to try to avert the most devastating disaster to menace the West Coast since the Hulk lost a can of his favorite beans in the San Andreas fault. JIM SHOOTER plotted it, BILL MANTLO wrote it, GEORGE TUSKA and DON PERLIN penciled and inked it to perfection ... all *you* have to do is sit back, read it, and enjoy! And should you *crave more*—In fact, we're kinda counting on it—Jolly JACK KIRBY has created, with the able inking assistance of JOHN VERPOORTEN and JOHN TARTAGLIONE, a king-size clash with that most malevolent of matter villains, Magneto, for the CAPTAIN AMERICA ANNUAL. Just to make certain you get your money's worth, Jack's also tossing in an *entirely new* Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. It all adds up to deadly danger for Cap, but is guaranteed 34 pages of sheer thrills for you. Between our Annuals and other special projects—like our incredible KISS book which goes on sale *next month*—we've got a summerful of way-out wonderment planned for you. Get in on it early so you don't miss *any* of the fun!

ITEM! For all of you who do your comics buying at a local 7—ELEVEN® store, there's another harbinger of Summer in the wings, namely a new set of Mighty Marvel Slurpee cups. Several seasons back, the Slurpee cups featured all the Marvel characters (including one of STAN THE MAN himself) and have gone on to become full-fledged collector's items, scrambled for, fought over, and sold at inflationary prices at most comics conventions. This time around, instead of mere solitary poses, the cups feature panoramic wrap-around scenes of our characters in the kind of awesome action that's the Marvel trademark. As artfully assembled and creatively colored by the bullpen's own Peerless PATY, we think this new set is going to be even more highly treasured than the first one. So, a word to the wise is sufficient. These Slurpee cups go on sale in the early summer. Watch for 'em... and glom on to them fast!

ITEM! A couple of Bullpen Bulletins back, we told you about the great GODZILLA book we had in the works. Well; this month it hits your newsstand and if you're just half as happy with the results as we were when we saw what Devil-may-care DOUG MOENCH, Happy HERB TRIMPE, and Jaunty JIM MOONEY had done with Toho Productions' lively large lizard, then we've a definite hit in the making.

ITEM! As long as we've got you checking things out, we'd also like to draw your attention to the latest issue of WHAT IF..? which explores the alternate reality that might be if "The Invaders Had Stayed Together after World War II." Also on sale this month is the second issue of our six-part adaptation of the George Lucas-Twentieth Century Fox film, STAR WARS. And coming up in late June is another special film adaptation, THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU. But more about it next time around. Till then, keep on thinking Marvel!

Shortly after the completion of last month's Bullpen Bulletin we received the saddening news that artist BOB BROWN had died of leukemia. Bob is probably best known to Marvel readers for his penciling work on DAREDEVIL, as well as on AVENGERS and MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE. During the last few years, Bob had also done much to promote better communication and exchange of ideas between American and European cartoonists. He was a gifted professional artist and a quiet, warm human being. He'll be sorely missed.

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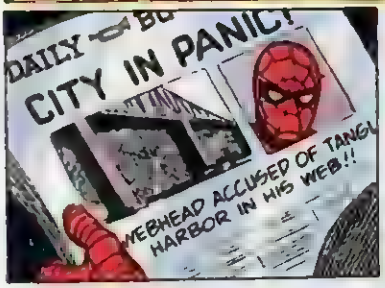

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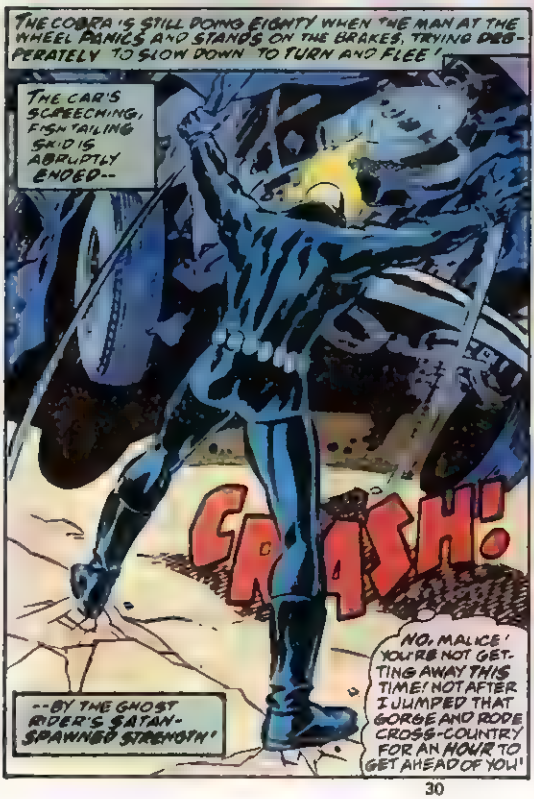

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STUPID HUMAN! MONEY IS OF LITTLE USE TO A SPIRIT BORN OF HELL!

I THIRST FOR VENGEANCE--! AND I WILL NOT BE DENIED!

TH-THE ROAD'S BURNING! YOU--YOU POINTED AND THE PAVEMENT CAUGHT ON FIRE!

H-HOW CAN--? WAIT! THE FIRE'S COMING CLOSER!

NO! NO! PLEASE!

THE FLAMES ARE COLD TO THE TOUCH, BUT AS THEY CREEP OVER MALICE'S BODY, HE BEGINS TO SCREAM... AS IF HIS SOUL WERE ON FIRE!

IT IS--

--AND IN AN INSTANT, MALICE KNOWS A FRIGID ETERNITY OF DESPAIR.

THE POLICE WILL FIND HIM BEFORE DAWN, STUCK TO THE ROAD BY MELTED TAR--AND HE WILL CONFESS EAGERLY, DESPERATELY.

THE GHOST RIDER DEPARTS, SATISFIED THAT JUSTICE HAS BEEN SERVED. PERHAPS IT HAS--

--BUT LATER, JOHNNY BLAZE WILL HAVE MUCH TO PONDER.

NEXT ENTER: DOCTOR DRUID!

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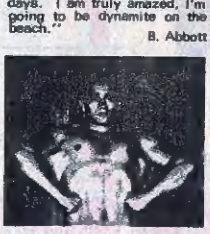

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P. Williams

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B. Daniels

"I have gained 5" on my arms and 12" on my chest, while losing 3" off my waist. I have tripled my power and speed. Thanks for what you have done for me!"
M. Robinson

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